

Message Text

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66

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SCA-01 SSO-00 PA-04 USIE-00

PRS-01 H-03 PPTE-00 EB-11 COME-00 SY-10 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 /058 W

----- 068030

O 242030Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9513

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS RIO DE JANEIRO 3922

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, BR

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT CRASH RIO DEJANEIRO

REF: RIO 3904

1. AS OF 3:30 P.M. OCTOBER 24, WHEREABOUTS OF GORDON DUERR, MEMBER OF INDIANA TRADE MISSION MISSING SINCE AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT REPORTED REFTEL, ARE STILL UNKNOWN. LT. GOV. ORR AND CONGEN OFFICERS ARE CONTINUING CLOSE COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO COVER ALL POSSIBILITIES. LT. GOV. ORR PERSONALLY VISITED A HOSPITAL NEAR CONGEN OFFICES AT ABOUT 1:30 A.M. OCTOBER 24 TO CHECK ON POSSIBLE LEAD WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY PROVED UNPRODUCTIVE.

2. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH RIO POLICE SINCE OCTOBER 23, UNDERSTAND THEY HAVE POSTED LOOK-OUT NOTICES AT VARIOUS POLICE OFFICES IN THE CITY AND HAVE AVAILABLE USIS-MADE COPIES OF A PHOTO OF MR. DUERR. NEWSPAPERS AND TV HAVE BEEN FURNISHED COPIES OF MR. DUERR'S PHOTO WHICH WE HOPE THEY WILL CARRY ON TV TONIGHT AND IN TOMORROW'S PAPERS. PHOTOS WERE NOT CARRIED TODAY OR ON LAST NIGHT'S TV AS EXPECTED, APPARENTLY DUE TO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.

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3. WE CONTINUE TO BE BESET BY CONTRADICTORY STORIES FROM VARYING SOURCES. MOST OPTIMISTIC TO DATE IS PRESUMED IDENTIFICATION OF MR DUERR BY VASP OFFICIALS MORNING OCTOBER 24 ON BASIS OF COLOR PHOTO SHOWN TO THEM BY CONGEN REP. HE WAS REPORTED AS UNWILLING TO REMAIN IN CAR FURNISHED BY VASP FOR TRANSPORT TO HOSPITAL AFTER CRASH AND GOT OUT TO REJOIN HIS FRIENDS. SUPERFICIAL ELEMENTS OF IDENTIFICATION APPEAR TO COINCIDE WITH HIS GENERAL DESCRIPTION. VASP UNABLE TO SAY WHERE THE INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED WENT AFTER LEAVING CAR WHICH THEY HAD PROVIDED FOR HIM. NO SUBSTANTIATION OF THIS TO DATE.

4. CONGEN RECHECKS OF HOSPITALS SEEM TO ESTABLISH AS DEFINITELY AS POSSIBLE THAT HE IS NOT AT ANY OF THOSE WHERE PASSENGERS OF AIRCRAFT WERE FOLLOWING ACCIDENT. THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE NAVAL SCHOOL HOSPITAL HAS STATED THAT MR. DUERR WAS NEVER TREATED THERE AT ANY TIME. INCLUSION HIS NAME ON LIST OF THOSE TREATED ISSUED EARLIER BY HOSPITAL WAS RESULT OF MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE PROPER ATTENTION IF HE HAD SHOWN UP.

5. BUD DUERR, SON OF THE MISSING AMERICAN, HAS INFORMED CONGEN THAT HE AND COMPANY ATTORNEY ARE TRAVELLING TO RIO AND SHOULD ARRIVE AFTERNOON OCTOBER 25 TO HELP PARTICIPATE IN INVESTIGATION. DENNIS SCHUELER, CLOSE FRIEND OF MR. DUERR'S FROM SAO PAULO ARRIVED AFTERNOON OCTOBER 24.

6. PRESS INTEREST FROM INDIANA CONTINUES STRONG, AND ALL RIO PAPERS ARE ALSO PROVIDING GOOD COVERAGE. GOVERNOR OF STATE OF MINAS GERAIS AND STATE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, AS WELL AS GOVERNOR OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL, HAVE SENT MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY AND BEST WISHES, AND LT. GOVERNOR ORR HAS REITERATED HIS VERY POSITIVE APPROACH TO AN EVENTUAL RETURN OF TRADE MISSION TO BRAZIL IF PRESENT MISSION CANNOT BE COMPLETED.

7. ALL MEMBERS OF MISSION SPENT MOST OF DAY IN CONGEN, RECEIVING IMMUNIZATIONS, MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR EMERGENCY ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS, AND TAKING CARE OF SIMILAR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS. WHEN BRIEFED THIS MORNING BY ACTING UNCLASSIFIED

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PRINCIPAL OFFICER, THEY SEEMED ALERT AND IN GOOD SPIRITS. SEVERAL MEMBERS WILL BE RETURNING TO US WITHIN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.

8. USIS REP AND MR. SCHUELER OCTOBER 24
REVIEWED ALL PHOTOS OF CRASH AND RESCUE EFFORTS TAKEN BY JORNAL DO BRASIL INCLUDING MANY NOT CARRIED IN PAPER. ARE ALSO VIEWING TV GLOBO TAPE OF INCIDENT WHICH

SEVERAL PEOPLE BELIEVE MAY HAVE PICTURE OF MR. DUERR.
MILLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973RIODE03922
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: RIO DE JANEIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731014/aaaaakhm.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: RIO 3904
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIRCRAFT CRASH RIO DEJANEIRO
TAGS: OGEN, BR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005